

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

1570 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203-1818 • (303) 866-2993 • (303) 866-4411 Fax • (303) 866-3883 TTY Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Joan Henneberry, Executive Director

DATE: Week Ending Friday, February 20, 2009

TO: HCPF Community

FROM: Ginny Brown, Legislative Liaison and Nicole Storm, Legislative Analyst

RE: Legislative Report – 2009 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

On Wednesday of this week, SB09-166, Senator Carroll, Prescription Drugs Ethics Act, was heard before the Senate Committee on Business. This proposal would prohibit prescription drug manufacturers from providing economic benefits to health care providers, require greater transparency in marketing and advertising for pharmaceuticals, prohibit persons with a financial interest in a pharmaceutical manufacturer from being involved in the purchase of prescription drugs, and prohibit the use of patient information for marketing purposes. The proposal was postponed indefinitely.

The Department's Ahlborn proposal, HB09-1191, Representative McCann & Senator Boyd, Concerning Liens of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Against Claims Against Third Parties, was passed by the House Health and Human Services Committee, 10-0 and now moves to the House Committee of the Whole. This proposal limits the lien in tort and casualty cases to the medical portion and brings our state statute into compliance with federal law in the Supreme Court decision of Ahlborn vs. Arkansas.

SB09-211, a Joint Budget Committee sponsored proposal, was introduced on Thursday and assigned to the Appropriations Committee. This proposal seeks to help balance the budget by eliminating the scheduled increase in eligibility to 225% of the federal poverty level for the children's basic health plan.

Also on Thursday, SB09-187, a Joint Budget Committee sponsored proposal, was introduced and assigned to Appropriations. This proposal makes a supplemental appropriation to the Department.

For more information about legislative activities please contact Ginny Brown (303-866-3972) or Nicole Storm (303-866-3180) or access www.colorado.gov to search the General Assembly website. A legislative report will be updated weekly on our website under Research and Partners, Legislative Information, Legislative Update http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf.